

**City of Cambridge***Richard C. Rossi • City Manager***Executive Department***Lisa C. Peterson • Deputy City Manager*

City Hall • 795 Massachusetts Avenue • Cambridge • Massachusetts • 02139  
617-349-4300 • fax: 617-349-4307 • tty: 617-492-0235 • [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov)

June 15, 2015

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am pleased to submit recommendations of the Cambridge Off Leash Working Group regarding off leash dogs in Cambridge.

The group, which was appointed in 2013, was formed in response to Council Order O-13 (January 14, 2013) to discuss issues related to dogs and advise city staff on dog related issues.

The group's work builds on both existing policies and previous city efforts regarding off leash dogs. The process also included four community meetings in winter 2014 to get input and feedback on a set of draft recommendations.

The final recommendations of the group represent a balanced and fair approach to citywide off leash issues, and focus on enhancing off leash opportunities, as well as improved outreach and education.

The recommendations are an important and positive step in, what is ultimately, an ongoing process to ensure that the City's open spaces provide opportunities for many types of users, and remain welcoming and inviting to the entire community.

These recommendations may also provide helpful information and guidance regarding proposed changes to Chapter 6.04 of the Cambridge Municipal Code (the "Animal Control Regulations") which were discussed at the Ordinance Committee on November 12, 2014.

If the Council votes to accept this report, I expect that some recommendations will be begin to be implemented over the next several weeks, starting with new morning shared use off leash hours at Joan Lorentz Park, Hoyt Field and Green Rose Heritage Park.

I look forward to answering any questions and continuing to work closely with the council, city staff, and the community on this issue.

Very truly yours,

*Richard C. Rossi*  
Richard C. Rossi  
City Manager

RCR/mec  
Attachment



City of Cambridge Off-Leash Working Group Recommendations  
June 2015

Off Leash Use in Cambridge

Over the past several years the City of Cambridge has been continually working with residents to explore strategies for dogs to be off leash in city parks and open spaces. There have generally been three approaches taken by the City to meet the demand for off leash space: dedicated off leash areas, shared use off leash areas, and shared use hours.

**Dedicated off leash spaces** are specific areas where the primary use is to allow dog owners to have their dogs off leash. These areas are generally fenced in to avoid potential conflicts with other users or passerby, and facilitate the containment of the dog. There are dedicated off leash areas at Pacific Street Park in Cambridgeport and at Danehy Park in North Cambridge. The off leash area in Pacific Street Park will be expanded and improved in summer 2015. **Shared use off leash areas** are places where dogs are allowed off leash that are not necessarily separated from other uses and activities. Fresh Pond Reservation (West Cambridge) and Fort Washington Park (Cambridgeport) are two examples of shared use areas in Cambridge. **Shared use hours** are certain times that dogs are allowed off leash. Shared use hours have been established during morning hours at Gold Star Mothers Park in East Cambridge and Corcoran Field (Raymond Street Park) in Neighborhood Nine.

Background

In 2005, the City began a process to look at open space opportunities for dogs and their owners while also considering the wider community's open space needs; field conditions and maintenance; school and athletic use; historically sensitive areas; potential rules and regulations; and examples from other similar cities. Both shared use options as well as opportunities for dedicated off leash spaces in Cambridge were explored. Open spaces were considered that:

- Were relatively underutilized at the time
- Met certain size requirements
- Not a part of school grounds
- Not heavily used and scheduled athletic facilities
- Contributed to achieving geographic distribution of off leash opportunities throughout the City

In spring 2008, the City conducted a series of meetings to establish shared use hours at certain parks throughout the City. The meetings focused on getting information and feedback from nearby residents, park users and dog owners on the general idea, and also the appropriate times, seasons, locations, and other considerations to take into account for such a program. Similar shared use hours programs have been undertaken in other cities where open space is relatively limited as a reasonable way to accommodate dog owners who desire regular periods of time for legal off leash activity. The initial areas considered, by virtue of their layout, would not necessarily require additional fencing or significant physical changes to park grounds. There was also an effort to distribute the potential spaces geographically throughout the City. There were community meetings regarding shared use hours at Gold Star Mothers (Gore Street) Park in East Cambridge, Corcoran Field (Raymond Street Park) in Neighborhood 9, Clement Morgan (Columbia Street) Park in Area 4, Rafferty Park in the Cambridge Highlands, and Riverside Press Park in the Riverside neighborhood.

As a result of that effort, a shared use off leash hours pilot program began at Corcoran Field (Raymond Street Park) and Gold Star Mothers (Gore Street) Park in 2009. Dogs are allowed off leash in the open



## City of Cambridge Off-Leash Working Group Recommendations June 2015

grassy areas at those locations between 6 AM and 9 AM only. The rationale for morning shared use hours was:

- Morning hours minimized interference with other park users
- Offering a designated time for dogs to be off leash would encourage responsible dog owners to have their dogs off leash at the appropriate time, rather than at other times
- Enforcement could be focused on the times when dogs were not allowed off leash
- Providing this option could potentially help facilitate observance of other rules regarding dogs in parks

In addition to the shared use hours pilot program, new dedicated off leash areas were constructed at Pacific Street Park in the Cambridgeport neighborhood in 2008 and on a portion of Danehy Park in North Cambridge in 2009.

Since that time there have also been several community meetings specifically to explore establishing off leash use in other parks around the City including at: Longfellow Park in West Cambridge, Joan Lorentz Park in Mid Cambridge and on a portion of Fresh Pond Reservation along Huron Avenue.

### Off Leash Working Group

In 2013, an Off Leash Working Group of city residents was appointed by the City Manager to work with city staff and the community to formulate recommendations on further improvements that can be made for dogs in parks that are beneficial to all park users. Discussions with staff included topics such as off leash usage trends in City parks, potential modifications or expansion of the current off leash shared use program, exploration of new off leash opportunities, effective signage, amenities in off leash areas, enforcement, communication, and outreach strategies. There were also a series of public meetings throughout the City in winter 2014 on the Working Group's recommendations in order to get input and feedback from the community.

Some key findings:

- Through geographic analysis of existing open space facilities that allow off leash use; addresses associated with licensed dogs in the City; and observed patterns of off leash use; Mid-Cambridge and Area IV neighborhoods were identified as a priority for additional off leash opportunities.
- Throughout the community process, there was general support for dedicated off leash areas from both dog owners and non-dog owners. However, because there is a limited amount of open space in the City, with increasing demands on use, tradeoffs will need to be considered at any potential new off leash location.
- While walking a dog on-leash is allowed in most public parks during regular park hours it is recognized that there is a desire for additional opportunities for dogs to be off leash in the evening hours. Evening off leash opportunities are more challenging to achieve due to other heavily scheduled uses during certain times of year, including athletics, recreational uses, and school activities; further, the winter months result in shorter park hours, which are typically dawn to dusk.



## City of Cambridge Off-Leash Working Group Recommendations June 2015

- The opportunity to interact with other community members was identified as a significant factor in making certain parks attractive to dog owners to have their dogs off leash, regardless of whether the location was actually designated for off leash use.

The recommendations of the Off-Leash Working Group are intended to create changes that will, over time, provide a broad network of open spaces that offer opportunities for dogs to be off leash so that all neighborhoods have access to off leash opportunities and no one location is more intensely impacted.

The recommendations are meant to work within the parameters of current resources available to the city in terms of enforcement, maintenance, and space, and include both short and long-term approaches to off leash issues in the City. It is anticipated that once adopted, the City will work to implement the recommendations through collaboration and regular meetings among the Animal Commission, Community Development Department, Department of Public Works, Recreation Division of Human Services Department and the City Manager's office. Throughout the implementation process, staff may also continue to collaborate and get feedback from the Working Group, and at public meetings when necessary.

The success of these recommendations will also rely heavily on good communication, education, and responsible park users, both those that own dogs and those that do not. These recommendations should be revisited periodically as dog ownership trends, practices, and technology evolve.

### Recommendations

- Continue allowing shared use off leash hours at **Gold Star Mothers Park** and **Corcoran Field (Raymond Street Park)** between the hours of 6am and 9am.
- Provide additional locations for shared use off leash hours. All new and existing shared use sites should be periodically reviewed for impacts on physical conditions, and feedback from users and the general public.
  - **Joan Lorentz Park** (Mid Cambridge neighborhood) - AM shared use (8am to 10am)
  - **Hoyt Field** (Riverside neighborhood) - AM shared use (6am to 9am)
  - **Greene Rose Heritage Park** (Area IV neighborhood) - AM shared use (6am to 9am)
- Monitor and evaluate impacts on open spaces where shared off leash use is allowed regarding field conditions and maintenance, dog waste, animal related complaints, and city resources through regular communication between the Department of Public Works, Animal Commission, Recreation Division, and Community Development Department.
- Work with the Historical Commission to explore the possibility of shared use hours at Longfellow Park with particular attention to the sensitive nature of field conditions and historical significance of the site.
- There should be appropriate information regarding shared use hours at each shared use location so that all park users are clear about the times they are available. Specifically, through new signage, and more proactive outreach.

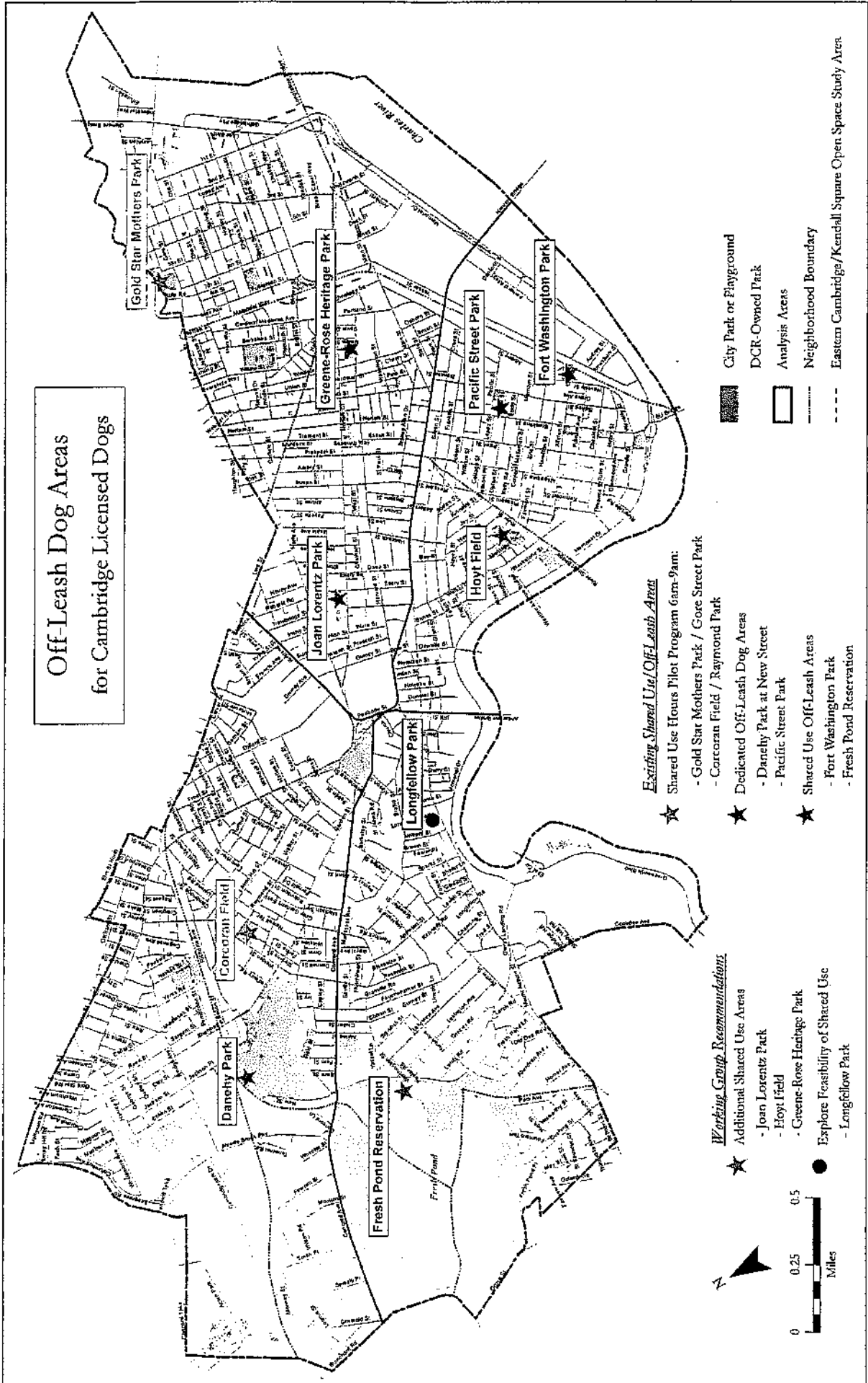


**City of Cambridge Off-Leash Working Group Recommendations**  
**June 2015**

- As new parks are created and renovated, the City should look to include off leash opportunities (including shared use and or dedicated spaces) where appropriate. In the next few years open space is anticipated to be created or renovated at:
  - Sacramento Field in the Agassiz neighborhood
  - Open space on Rogers Street in East Cambridge
  - Parcel on Binney Street in East Cambridge and Kendall Square
  - Parcel on First Street and Land Boulevard in East Cambridge and Kendall Square
- Consider seasonal opportunities for shared off leash use. For example, athletic facilities that have limited or no use during winter months and where maintenance issues might be more easily addressed, such as tennis courts.
- The Working Group supports the city Animal Commission's policies regarding enforcement, including proposed ordinance changes to the "Animal Control Regulations" that are currently before the City Council and include an increase in fines and certain fees comparable with those in surrounding communities, new kennel requirements, and authority for park rangers at Fresh Pond Reservation to enforce Animal Control Regulations.
- Support efforts to promote and facilitate opportunities for community building at locations, and during times, which off leash use is encouraged. Some examples might include events, giveaways, morning coffee, as well as social activities and events aimed at promoting good dog behavior and owner responsibilities.
- Continue to explore new outreach and education strategies regarding off leash policies responsibilities and expectations, especially for new residents, students, and renters in the city. Consider ways to provide information and get feedback through the dog license application process.
- Improve signage regarding off leash areas, with an emphasis on visual and graphic cues. Explore branding strategies to create easily recognizable, friendly, and consistent signage and information.
- Use social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter and others, to proactively get relevant real time information out to dog owners such as field conditions, maintenance schedules, and other issues facing the off leash community as they arise.
- Continue to work with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) regarding off leash policy and opportunities at DCR open spaces within Cambridge.
- Continue to review best practices and new ideas regarding off leash issues from other locations that may be applicable for Cambridge.



# Off-Leash Dog Areas for Cambridge Licensed Dogs





# Households with Licensed Dogs as of August 2012 Cambridge, Massachusetts



Households with a licensed dog  
(2,286 total)

Source: Locations of households with licensed dogs are from the Cambridge Animal Commission and are for 2012.

- City Park or Playground
- DCR-Owned Park
- Neighborhood Boundary



City of Cambridge  
City Council Health and Environment Committee  
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Cambridge Off Leash Working Group Recommendations





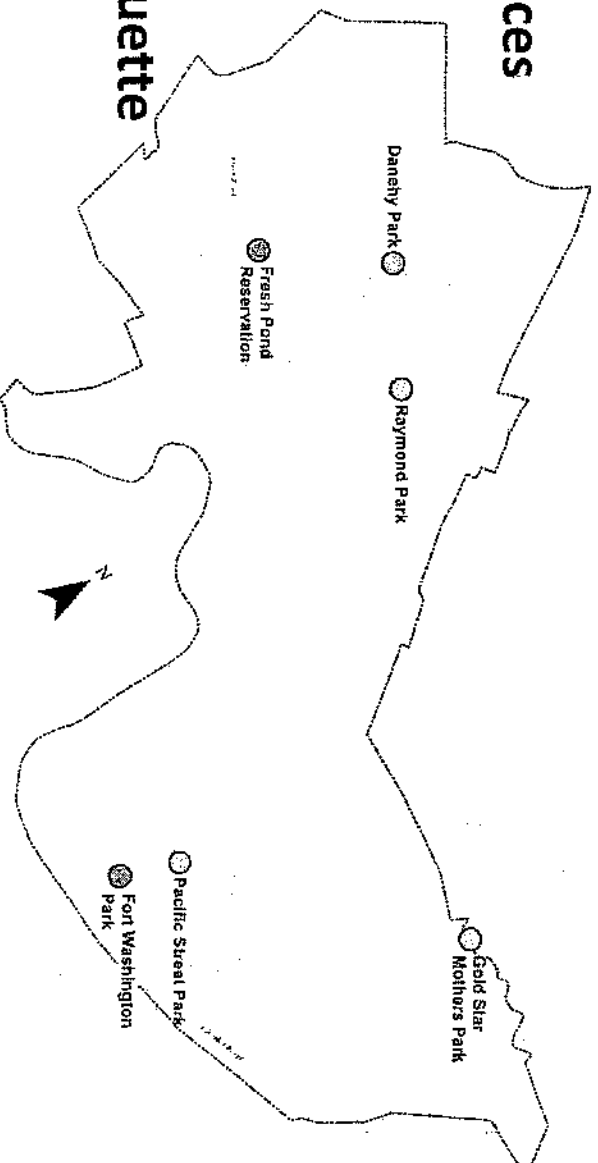
City of Cambridge  
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- City Manager's Office
- Animal Commission
- Community Development Department
- Department of Public Works
- Recreation Division, Human Services Programs



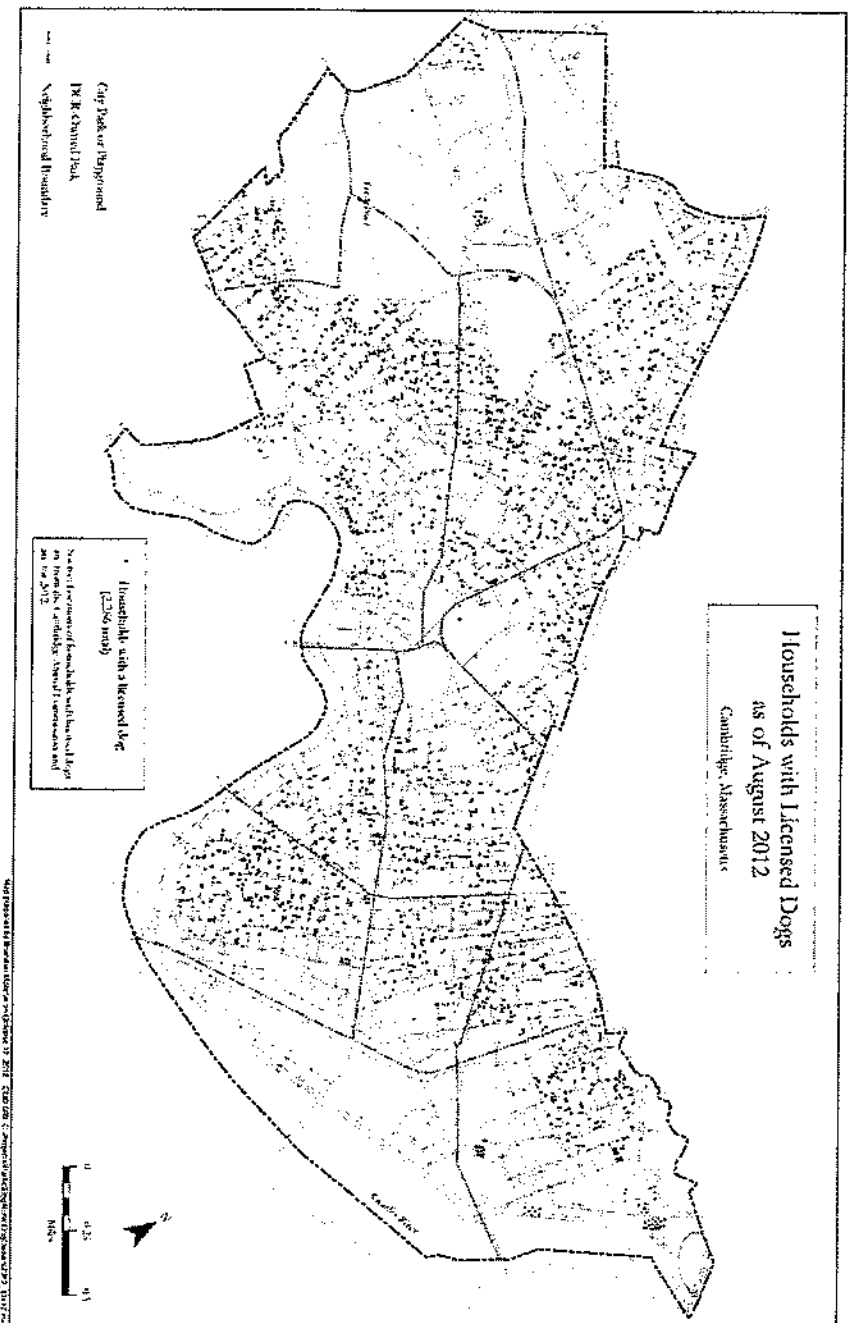
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- **Dedicated off leash spaces**
- **Shared use locations**
- **Shared use hours**
- **Off leash brochure**
- **Rules, regulations, etiquette**





# City of Cambridge City Council Health and Environment Committee Wednesday, September 23, 2015





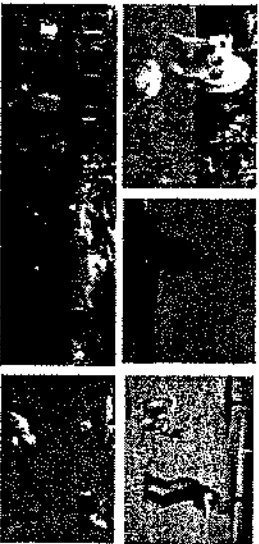
# City of Cambridge City Council Health and Environment Committee Wednesday, September 23, 2015

## Off Leash Working Group formed in 2013

## series of community meetings on recommendations

**City of Cambridge**  
is seeking residents to serve on a

### Dog Park Working Group




This group will work with City staff to make recommendations on improvements that can be made regarding dog related issues in city parks that are beneficial to all park users.

For more information please visit the web at:  
[www.cambridgema.gov/offleash](http://www.cambridgema.gov/offleash)

Cambridge residents (both dog owners and non-dog owners) are encouraged to send a brief letter of interest by Friday, May 17, 2013 to:

Annette Rodabaugh  
Cambridge Department of Public Works  
147 Hampshire Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
FAX: 617-349-4868  
[arodabaugh@cambridgema.gov](mailto:arodabaugh@cambridgema.gov)

The City of Cambridge is hosting a series of public meetings regarding off leash dogs in city parks



- Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30pm  
Main Library, Community room  
449 Broadway
- Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm  
Cambridge Community Center  
5 Callender Street
- Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm  
Central Square Branch Library, Lewis Room  
45 Pearl Street

Come to any one of the meetings to discuss a City Manager appointed working group's recommendations for improving access to off leash areas for residents of Cambridge. The recommendations are intended to facilitate changes over time that will provide a broad network of open spaces throughout the city that offer opportunities for dogs to be off leash.

Additional information as well as the draft recommendations of the working group are available on the web at:

**[www.cambridgema.gov/offleash](http://www.cambridgema.gov/offleash)**

If you have additional questions, please contact Tola Jorjunga at 617-349-1302 or by email at: [tjorjunga@cambridgema.gov](mailto:tjorjunga@cambridgema.gov)

The City of Cambridge does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The City will provide all library and services, within reasonable modifications, to ensure equal access to all services. For more information, please call 617-349-1302.



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## **Off leash recommendations**

### **Key findings:**

- Mid-Cambridge and Area IV identified as priorities for off leash opportunities
- General support for additional dedicated off leash areas
- Desire for evening off leash opportunities
- Community atmosphere is key



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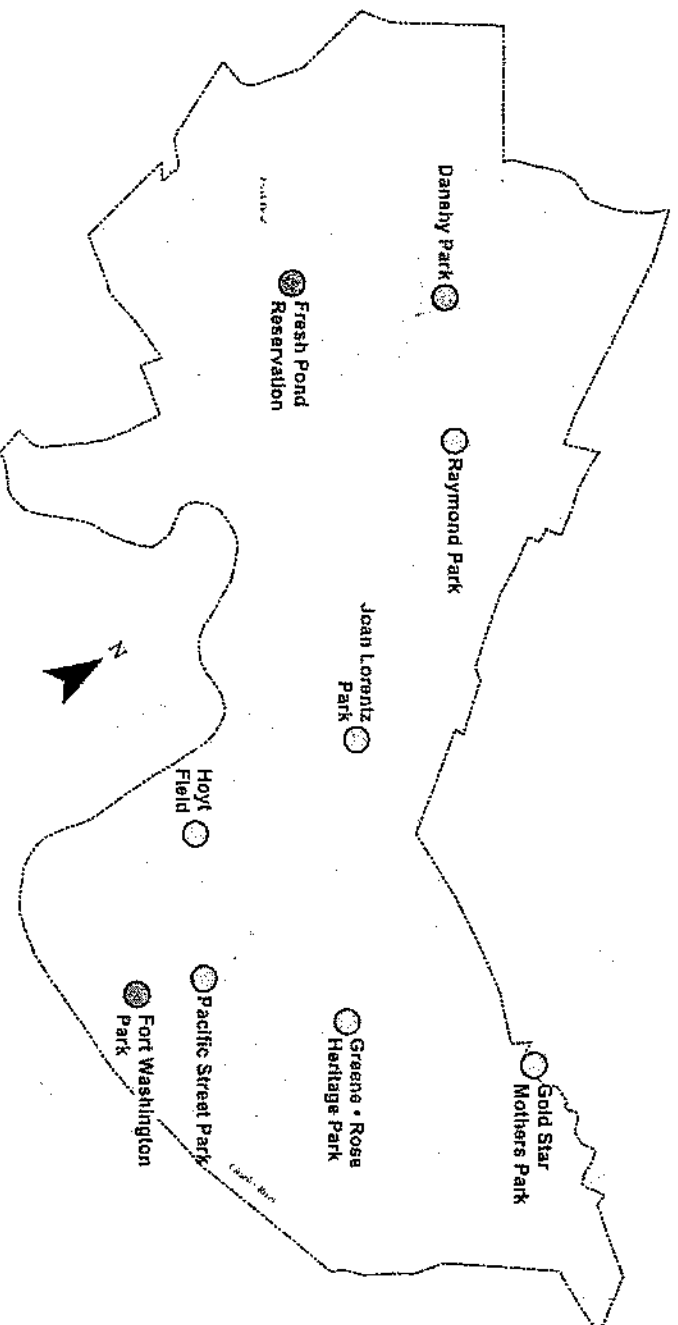
## Off leash recommendations

### New shared use hours locations

**Joan Lorentz Park**  
8am - 10am

**Hoyt Field**  
6am - 9am

**Greene Rose Heritage Park**  
6am - 9am





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# Off leash recommendations

## New off leash brochure and user guide

### ABOUT OFF LEASH DOGS IN CAMBRIDGE PARKS

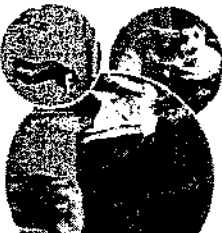

Over the past decade, a lot of people have been asking questions about off-leash dogs in Cambridge parks. This brochure provides information about the rules and regulations for off-leash dogs in Cambridge parks.

- Off-leash dogs are only allowed in designated areas.
- Dogs must be licensed and vaccinated.
- Owners must be responsible for their dogs.
- Dogs must be on a leash outside of designated areas.
- Dogs must be under control at all times.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash in all other areas.


### CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact the City of Cambridge Parks Department at 617-349-3333 or visit our website at [www.cambridge.gov/parks](http://www.cambridge.gov/parks).

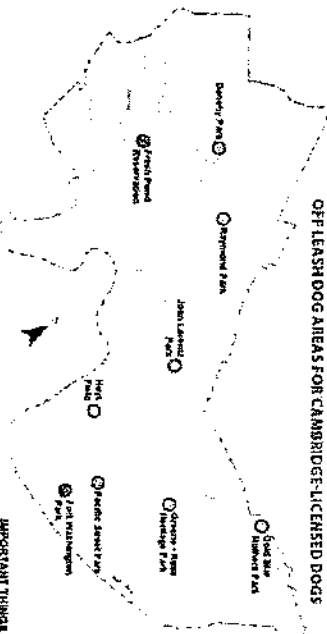
For more information, please contact the City of Cambridge Parks Department at 617-349-3333 or visit our website at [www.cambridge.gov/parks](http://www.cambridge.gov/parks).

### Off Leash Dog Guide



### OFF LEASH DOG AREAS FOR CAMBRIDGE LICENSED DOGS



#### INDICATED OFF LEASH AREAS

These areas are designated for off-leash dogs. Dogs must be licensed and vaccinated.

#### DESIGNATED OFF LEASH AREAS

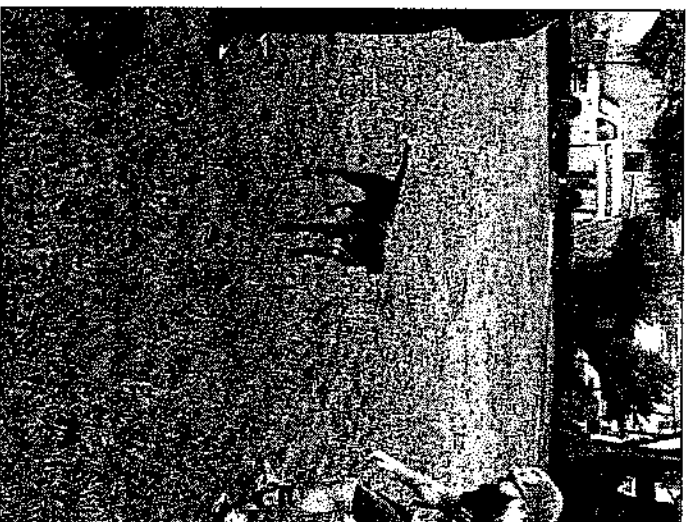
These areas are designated for off-leash dogs. Dogs must be licensed and vaccinated.

#### IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER


- Dogs must be licensed and vaccinated.
- Dogs must be on a leash outside of designated areas.
- Dogs must be under control at all times.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash in all other areas.



## Off leash recommendations



**woof woof bark woof!**  
**(Attention Cambridge dogs!)**



Join us for morning coffee  
in the City's newest off leash  
shaved use hours locations!

In these locations, dogs with current  
Cambridge licenses are allowed to be  
off leash during specific morning hours.

We'll be there bright and early with  
coffee and giveaway items, join  
us to learn more about off leash  
opportunities in Cambridge park!

**Join them for information  
about off leash dogs in  
Cambridge, MA!**

**Join Us!**  
Monday, Nov. and Wednesday, Nov.  
September 2nd - 11th  
9:00 AM to 9:30 AM

**Cambridge Rose  
Heritage Park  
Herb and Max Wilson 515  
September 9th - 11th  
7:00 AM to 9:00 AM**

**Join Us!**  
Monday, Nov. and Wednesday, Nov.  
September 16th - 18th  
7:00 AM to 9:30 AM

**Questions?**  
Contact Cary Hays at  
Arts@cambridge.gov  
or call 781-387-3601

**For more information  
visit [www.cambridge.gov/leash](http://www.cambridge.gov/leash)**



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## **Off leash recommendations**

### **Next steps**

- **New opportunities** - hours, locations, seasons
- **Outreach** - signage, social media
- **Enforcement** - Animal Control Ordinance updates
- **Evaluation** - City staff coordination, revisit recommendations



City of Cambridge  
City Council Health and Environment Committee  
Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Questions



[www.cambridgema.gov/offleash](http://www.cambridgema.gov/offleash)



## City of Cambridge

*Richard C. Rossi • City Manager*

## Executive Department

*Lisa C. Peterson • Deputy City Manager*

City Hall • 795 Massachusetts Avenue • Cambridge • Massachusetts • 02139  
 617-349-4300 • fax: 617-349-4307 • tty: 617-492-0235 • www.cambridgenia.gov

July 28, 2014

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Attached hereto for your consideration is a proposed amendment to Chapter 6.04 of the Cambridge Municipal Code (the "Animal Control Regulations"). The changes in this proposed amendment have been recommended by the Director of the Animal Commission, Mark McCabe ("Director") in consultation with the Law Department, and include changes related to the following issues:

- The Director and his staff have found that many dog owners do not remove dog waste left by their dogs in public areas, which not only constitutes a nuisance to individuals who may frequent parks and utilize public ways, but also constitutes a health hazard. Also, the volume of waste left near the City of Cambridge watershed poses additional concerns. The current schedule of fines contained in the Animal Control Regulations, which provides for fines of \$10.00 for the first offense, \$25.00 for the second offense, and \$50.00 for a third and subsequent offense in any calendar year, has not been sufficient to deter dog owners from failing to pick up after their dog. Accordingly, a flat fine of \$100.00 is proposed for all such violations.
- Other fees and fines that are less in Cambridge than in other communities include the fees for yearly licensing of dogs and the fine for failing to license a dog. The fine in Cambridge for failing to license a dog is \$25.00, which has been determined by the Director to be insufficient to offset the expenses incurred in enforcing this requirement, as there is an increasing number of individuals with unlicensed dogs in the City, and additionally, this fine is less than the fine for this offense under the state law governing unlicensed dogs, G.L. c. 140, §§ 137A and 141. The Director recommends that this fine be increased to \$50.00 per violation. He also recommends increases in license fees from \$8.00 to \$10.00 for spayed or neutered dogs, and from \$25.00 to \$30.00 for unspayed or intact dogs (but with no license fee for service animals), which will help offset some of the expenses needed to administer the license program.
- The Director has found that the graduated fines provided for off leash violations in the Animal Control Regulations have been an administrative burden to enforce, and that the initial \$10.00 fine for having a dog off leash has been insufficient to deter individuals from releasing their dogs off leash in non-designated areas. Accordingly, a fine of \$25.00 for each such offense is recommended, which would assist the Animal Control Commission in enforcing the leash requirement.
- If the City is required to kennel a "dog at large," or an unleashed dog, the Director has found that the requirement in the Animal Control Regulations to keep an unleashed dog in a kennel for ten (10) days is unnecessary, and recommends that the seven (7) day period provided by state law, G.L. c. 140, § 151, be required instead, and that the owner of the dog be required to reimburse the City for any costs of care while the dog is in the kennel.
- The Director also proposes that the Park Ranger(s) at the Fresh Pond Reservoir be given authority to enforce all aspects of the Animal Control Regulations, as the Fresh Pond Reservoir is the largest and most used shared space for people and dogs in the City.



- Finally, some of the terminology contained in Chapter 6.04 is outdated, so various updates are recommended.

A red-lined version of the Ordinance with the proposed changes to be ordained, along with a written description of such changes, is attached hereto for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard C. Rossi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Richard C. Rossi  
City Manager

RCR/mec  
Attachment



Be it ordained by the City Council of Cambridge that Cambridge Municipal Code Chapter 6.04 is hereby amended as follows:

In Section 6.04.010, at the end of the section, adding the words "E. "Park Ranger" shall mean the Chief Park Ranger at the Fresh Pond Reservoir, or any other park ranger designated by the City of Cambridge."

In Section 6.04.020, in the second sentence, adding the word "(("Director"))" after the word "Commission," and adding the words "or her" after the word "his." In the third sentence, replacing the word "2009" with "2015," and the word "eight" with "ten" and the words "twenty-five" with "thirty," and deleting the word "not" before the word "neutered." In the fourth sentence, adding the words "or his or her designee" after the word "Director", and adding the words "or she" after the first time the word "he" appears, and adding the words "or she" after the second time the word "he" appears, and adding the words "or her" after the word "his." Deleting the fifth sentence, which reads "No fee shall be charged for a license for a dog specially trained to lead or serve a blind person, if the Division of the Blind certifies that such dog is so trained and actually in the service of a blind person," and replacing with "Pursuant to G.L. c. 140, §139, no fee shall be charged for a license issued under this section for a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder."

In Section 6.04.030(A), adding the words "or her" after the word "his" in the first sentence.

In Section 6.04.030(C), deleting the words "Dog Officer" and replacing with "Director or designee or a Park Ranger(s)" in the first sentence. In the second sentence, deleting the words "Dog Officer" and replacing with the words "Director or designee, or a Park Ranger(s)" and adding the words "or she" after the word "he." In the third sentence, deleting the word "ten" and replacing with the word "seven." Finally, adding a fourth sentence to read "The owner or keeper shall be liable for all costs of care and confinement, in addition to any other amounts allowed by law."

In Section 6.04.030(D), in the first sentence, adding the phrase ", plus full payment of all costs of care and confinement, in addition to any other amounts allowed by law" after the word "keeper". In the second sentence, deleting the words "Dog Officer" the first time they appear and replacing with the words "Director or designee," adding the words "or her" after the word "his", adding the words "or her" after the word "him," and deleting the words "Dog Officer" the second time they appear and replacing with the words "Director or designee."

In Section 6.04.060, adding the words "or her" after the word "his" in the first sentence.

In Section 6.04.100, in the first sentence, deleting the words "A full time Dog Officer and an Assistant shall be appointed by the City Manager and" and replacing with the words "The Director, Animal Control Officers, and the Park Ranger(s)," deleting the



word "responsibility" and replacing with the word "authority," and adding the words "all sections of" after the word "enforcing."

In Section 6.04.110(A), in the first sentence, deleting the words "Department of Health and Hospitals" and replacing with the words "Public Health and Inspectional Services Departments," and deleting the words "Department of Traffic and Parking" and replacing with the words "Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department," and deleting the word "and" after the phrase "by any Police Officer," and deleting the words "Dog Officer" and replacing with the words "Director, Animal Control Officers, Park Ranger(s)," and deleting the words "Chief of Police" replacing with the words "Police Commissioner."

In Section 6.04.110(C), replacing the entire paragraph with the phrase "All fines and penalties assessed and collected under this chapter may be enforced by issuance of non-criminal tickets pursuant to G.L. c. 40, Section 21D, or as otherwise authorized by law."

In Section 6.04.120, adding the following to the end of the section "Any person who violates any of the provisions of Section 6.04.020 of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars for each offense. A violation of Section 6.04.030 shall be punishable by a fine of twenty five dollars for each offense, plus any and all costs of care and confinement, and any other amounts allowed by law. A violation of Section 6.04.060 of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars for each offense."



Title 6 - ANIMALS

Chapter 6.04 ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATIONS

**Chapter 6.04 ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATIONS**

**Sections:**

6.04.010 Definitions.

6.04.020 Dogs—License required—Fee.

6.04.030 Dogs—Leash or restraint—Required—Offense.

6.04.040 Dogs—Leash or restraint—Areas exempted where.

6.04.050 Dogs—Nuisances unlawful.

6.04.060 Dogs—Removal of waste required.

6.04.070 Running at large—Permits for exhibitions.

6.04.080 Fast driving.

6.04.090 Frightening horses.

6.04.100 Enforcement officials designated.

6.04.110 Violation—Complaint disposition.

6.04.120 Violation—Penalty.

**6.04.010 Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

- A. "Animals" means all mammals, fowl and reptiles, except man.
- B. "At large" means off the premises of the owner or custodian and not under the control of the owner or custodian either by leash, cord, chain or otherwise.
- C. "Keep" means possessing, controlling, exercising or allowing to run at large.
- D. "Owner" means any person possessing, keeping, harboring or having custody of an animal.
- E. "Park Ranger" shall mean the Chief Park Ranger at the Fresh Pond Reservoir, or any other park ranger designated by the City of Cambridge.

(Ord. 998 (part), 1983: prior code § 4-1)

**6.04.020 Dogs—License required—Fee.**

Every dog six months old or over shall be licensed pursuant to G.L. c. 140, § 137. As proof that the dog has been spayed or neutered, the owner or keeper shall present to the Director of the Animal Commission ("Director") or his or her designee a certificate of the registered veterinarian who performed the operation. Effective June 1, 2015~~09~~, the fee for such license shall, except as otherwise provided, be



## Title 6 - ANIMALS

### Chapter 6.04 ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATIONS

~~ten~~eight dollars for a spayed or neutered dog and ~~thirty-two~~twenty-five dollars for a dog that is not spayed or not-neutered. If the Director or his or her designee is satisfied that the certificate of the veterinarian who performed the operation cannot be obtained, he or she may accept in lieu thereof a sworn statement of a veterinarian registered and practicing in the Commonwealth, describing the dog, and stating that he or she has examined the dog and that, in his or her opinion, it has been spayed or neutered. Pursuant to G.L. c. 140, § 139, No fee shall be charged for a license issued under this section for a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder, charged for a license for a dog specially trained to lead or serve a blind person, if the Division of the Blind certifies that such dog is so trained and actually in the service of a blind person. No part of the fee shall be refunded because of the subsequent death, loss, spaying, castration, removal from the Commonwealth or other disposal of the dog. Nor shall any part of the fee paid by mistake be refunded.

(Ord. 1321, 5/18/2009; Ord. 1275, 2004; 1125 § 2, 1991; Ord. 1096, 1990; Ord. 998 (part), 1983; prior code § 4-7)

#### 6.04.030 Dogs—Leash or restraint—Required—Offense.

- A. No person owning or keeping a dog shall permit it to be at large other than on his or her own premises; if it be on the premises of another person, it shall be with the knowledge and permission of such other person. The owner, keeper or person having custody of a dog which is not on the premises of the owner or upon the premises of another person with the knowledge and permission of such person shall keep the dog under control by means of a chain, rope or cord not exceeding six feet in length of sufficient strength to control the actions of such dog.
- B. In any prosecution under this chapter, the presence of such dog at large upon premises other than the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog shall be prima facie evidence that such knowledge and permission was not had.
- C. Any dog found to be at large in violation of this chapter shall be caught and confined by the ~~Dog Officer~~Director or designee, or a Park Ranger(s), who shall notify forthwith the owner or keeper of such dog by telephone or by leaving a written message at his or her place of residence. If the ~~Dog Officer~~Director or designee, or a Park Ranger(s) is unable to communicate with the owner or keeper by these means, he or she shall, within two days of such failure, notify such owner or keeper, by certified mail, return receipt requested. The owner or keeper shall have ~~ten~~seven days from the date the dog is caught within which to recover the dog. The owner or keeper shall be liable for all costs of care and confinement, in addition to any other amounts allowed by law.
- D. Return of the dog to the licensed owner or keeper shall be dependent on admission of ownership or the keeping of the dog and the assumption of responsibility by the licensed owner or keeper, plus full payment of all costs of care and confinement, in addition to any other amounts allowed by law. The ~~Director or designee~~Dog Officer shall enter and prosecute a complaint against the owner or keeper of any dog taken into his or her custody under this section; provided, however, if within the twelve months next preceding this offense the owner or keeper has not been convicted for violation of this chapter or a dog owned or kept by him or her has not been taken into custody for violation of this chapter, the ~~Director or designee~~Dog Officer may waive prosecution.

(Ord. 998 (part), 1983; prior code § 4-9)



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#### **6.04.040 Dogs—Leash or restraint—Areas exempted where.**

- A. Dogs may go unleashed in areas within the City that have been designated as off-leash dog areas and signed as such. Dogs are permitted to use the off-leash dog areas provided that:
1. All dogs are leashed prior to entering and upon leaving the off-leash dog area;
  2. The owner/keeper of the dog(s), at all times while his/her dog(s) is (are) using the designated off-leash dog area, is in attendance with the dog(s) in the designated area;
  3. The owner/keeper of the dog(s) has a leash in his/her possession for each dog he/she owns/keeps that is using the designated area;
  4. All dogs using the off-leash dog areas have a current Cambridge dog license which must be displayed on the dog at all times;
  5. All dogs must be accompanied by an owner/keeper and be under his/her control at all times.
  6. The following dogs are not permitted to use these off-leash dog areas:
    - a. Dogs determined to have a vicious disposition pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 140 §157 or Cambridge Municipal Code Chapter 6.08
    - b. Dogs in heat;
    - c. Dogs wearing prong or choke collars.
- B. Each owner/keeper may only have a maximum of three (3) dogs at one time in one of the off-leash dog areas.
- C. All off-leash dog areas are subject to the provisions of M.G.L. ch. 140 §157 providing, inter alia, that excessive barking, display of vicious disposition and other disturbances or sources of annoyance may constitute a nuisance.
- D. Use of designated off-leash dog areas will be permitted during the regular operating hours of the park in which the off-leash dog area is located.
- (Ord. 1125 § 3, 1991; Ord. 998 (part), 1983; prior code § 4-8)  
(1306, Amended, 06/04/2007)

#### **6.04.050 Dogs—Nuisances unlawful.**

No person shall own or keep in the City any dog which by barking, biting, howling or in any other manner, disturbs the quiet of any person.

(Ord. 998 (part), 1983; prior code § 4-2)

#### **6.04.060 Dogs—Removal of waste required.**

It shall be the duty of each person who owns, possesses or controls a dog to remove and dispose of any feces left by his or her dog on any sidewalk, gutter, street or other public area, or on any private property neither owned nor occupied by such person. No such person shall appear with a dog on any



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sidewalk, gutter, street or other public area, or on any private property neither owned nor occupied by such person without the means of removal of any feces left by such dog.

(Ord. 998 (part), 1983: prior code § 4-10)

#### 6.04.070 Running at large—Permits for exhibitions.

No owner or person having the care of any domestic fowl, or any goats, sheep, swine, horses, oxen, cows or other grazing animals, shall permit or suffer the same to go at large, or to graze on any street; and no person shall publicly exhibit any animal in the streets or public places of the City except in accordance with a permit from the Superintendent of Streets.

(Ord. 998 (part), 1983: prior code § 4-3)

#### 6.04.080 Fast driving.

No person having the care or use of a horse or other beast of burden, carriage or drought, shall ride, drive or permit such horse or other beast to go at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper having regard to traffic and the use of the way and the safety of the public.

(Ord. 998 (part), 1983: prior code § 4-4)

#### 6.04.090 Frightening horses.

No person shall, by any noise, gestures, words or other means, wantonly and designedly frighten and drive any horse in any street.

(Ord. 998 (part), 1983: prior code § 4-5)

#### 6.04.100 Enforcement officials designated.

~~A full-time~~ The Director, Animal Control Officers, or Park Ranger(s) ~~Dog Officer and an Assistant~~ shall be appointed by the ~~City Manager~~ and shall have the responsibility authority of enforcing this all sections of this chapter.

(Ord. 998 (part), 1983: prior code § 4-12)

#### 6.04.110 Violation—Complaint disposition.

- A. For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of Sections 6.04.030 and 6.04.060 of this chapter, notices of violation (appearance tickets) may be issued by Sanitation Inspectors and Code Enforcement Inspectors detailed with the Public Health and Inspectional Services Departments ~~Department of Health and Hospitals~~, by persons appointed as Parking Control Officers detailed within the Department of Traffic and Parking ~~Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department~~, by any Police Officer, and by the Director, Animal Control Officers, Park Ranger(s) and Dog Officer ~~and~~ employees of the Water Department recommended by the Water Board and approved by the Chief of Police Commissioner in those areas under the jurisdiction of the Water Board.



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- B. Any owner or keeper of a dog, who has been observed by a Police Officer to have violated any provisions of Sections 6.04.020, 6.04.030, 6.04.040 and 6.04.060 of this chapter, and who refuses to give proper personal identification of his or her person to such Police Officer upon request, shall be subject to arrest.
- C. All fines and penalties assessed and collected under this chapter may be enforced by issuance of non-criminal tickets pursuant to G.L. c. 40, Section 21D, or as otherwise authorized by law. All notices of violation (appearance tickets) shall be returnable to the Clerk of the Cambridge Division, District Court Department of the Trial Court, Middlesex County. Unless the person named on said notice of violation appears before said Clerk within twenty-one days of said violation either personally or through an agent duly authorized in writing, or by mailing to such Clerk, with the notice, the fine provided therein, a complaint will be sought against the person named in said notice. If the violation is the first offense under Section 6.04.030 or 6.04.060 of this chapter committed by such person within a calendar year, the payment to the Clerk of a fine of ten dollars shall operate as a final disposition of the case. If it is the second offense in a calendar year, payment to the Clerk of a fine of twenty-five dollars shall operate as a final disposition of the case. If it is the third or subsequent offense in a calendar year, payment of a fine of fifty dollars shall operate as a final disposition of the case. A violation of Section 6.04.020 of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine of not more than twenty-five dollars for each offense.

(Ord. 1097, 1990; Ord. 1092 (part), 1989; Ord. 998 (part), 1983; prior code § 4-11)

#### 6.04.120 Violation—Penalty.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of Sections 6.04.040, 6.04.050, 6.04.070, 6.04.080 or 6.04.090 of this chapter shall be subject to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars for each offense. Any person who violates any of the provisions of Section 6.04.020 of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars for each offense. A violation of Section 6.04.030 shall be punishable by a fine of twenty five dollars for each offense, plus any and all costs of care and confinement, and any other amounts allowed by law. A violation of Section 6.04.060 of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars for each offense.

(Ord. 1125 § 1, 1991; Ord. 998 (part), 1983; prior code § 4-6)